How the Love That Comes from God Takes Shape in the Heart

One of the fundamental values—one of the things from above—that defines the Kingdom of God is love (God is love. 1 John 4:8; Finally, brethren, be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11).

Many of us do not understand that without the “love from above,” we will not reach the goal of dwelling together with God.

Scripture tells us that we will not enter the Kingdom of love if we do not love God—who is love—with all our heart, and if we do not desire this character trait (He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 1 John 4:8).

Love is the bond that unites all the citizens of the Kingdom of God (And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Colossians 3:14).

To reach this standard, we must adopt the law of love that governs the territory of the Kingdom (Charity seeketh not her own. 1 Corinthians 13:5).

Love is selfless; it does not seek its own benefit, but that of others. Love from above does not enter our hearts by chance—it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, produced when we keep the teachings of Christ (And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 2 John 1:6).

Whoever follows the school of discipleship under Christ will ultimately bear the fruit of love from above (Now the end of the commandment is charity. 1 Timothy 1:5).

Between the love that comes from above and natural, earthly love, there is a distance as great as from heaven to earth. Love from above is patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, does not behave unseemly, does not seek its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:4–8).

To learn and experience this perfect love, God places us in His family, the Church—that is, in the Body of Christ (But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him 1 Corinthians 12:18).

The Church is the Lord’s school, and He lovingly cares for it (For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church Ephesians 5:29).

The Body of Christ, which is the Church, is part of God’s plan for the perfection of the saints. It is the place where love from above is both taught and practiced—where infants, children, and young people learn from the elders to clothe themselves with patience, kindness, to walk in holiness, to forgive, to love—in other words, to walk after the things from above, after the things of the Spirit (... for the perfecting of the saints... for the edifying of the body of Christ Ephesians 4:12).

Here we learn to live in righteousness and peace, to seek the good of others, and to no longer live for ourselves (But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:7; For none of us liveth to himself. Romans 14:7; Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. 1 Corinthians 10:24).

We learn to be closely knit together and to bear one another’s burdens (From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16; Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2).

In the Church, we are taught to love even those outside of it—even those who do us harm. When we come into contact with those outside the Kingdom of love, we must follow the example of the Lord: to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us, to do good to those who hate us, because we are children of our Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:44).

To obtain this love—which the natural mind cannot comprehend—it can only be through following the school where the teachings of Christ are taught. Otherwise, no matter how hard we try to produce love, it will not happen. He holds the recipe for love, and whoever follows it will obtain it (And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 2 John 1:6. Now the end of the commandment is charity. 1 Timothy 1:5).

We will come to love our fellow men if we learn to keep the Word of Christ (By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 1 John 5:2-3; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Matthew 28:20).

Love will be poured into our hearts to the extent that, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we accept and keep the teachings of the Lord Jesus (And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. Romans 5:5).

To better understand this, let us consider a situation that each of us may face at some point. Suppose that in the case of an inheritance—land, a house, or similar—a brother demands that we give him part of what rightfully belongs to us.

If we belong to the world, we will have at our disposal the solutions the world offers: resistance through words, through anger, or through legal action. But if we are citizens of the Kingdom, we must take a different position. We must act according to the solutions given by the law of the Kingdom. The requirements for those who are part of the Kingdom are: to live in peace with all men, to have long-suffering, and to be full of kindness (Follow peace with all men... Hebrews 12:14).

The first thing we must do is, as much as it depends on us, not to give the other person an occasion to sin. We must do everything we can not to provoke him to anger or unrest. For this, we have at our disposal the commandments that lead to peace (Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9; If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Romans 12:18).

To remain in the peace of Christ, we must not resist the one who wants to take by force what belongs to us (But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil. Matthew 5:39; And him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also Luke 6:29).

Then, we must do something more—something that to the worldly mind seems like foolishness. To heap coals of fire on his head, we must be willing to give him the “cloke” as well, not just the thing he wants to take from us (And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. Matthew 5:40).

This teaching, which leads us to give even more, does not come from human logic—it comes from above (If thine enemy hunger, feed him. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:20.21).

If he wants to take part of the land that belongs to us, we should show him that we are willing to give more than he wants to take (And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Matthew 5:41).

This attitude—of being ready to give more when something is taken from us by force—is not of human nature. It does not come naturally, but only through keeping the

laws of the Kingdom from above. Keeping the commandments of Christ will lead us to perfect love, which casts out fear and gives us full confidence on the day of judgment (And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. 2 John 1:6; Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment. 1 John 4:17).

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